

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline) ↑

The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion'. It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day.

Preparation

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

All **Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord

All **who made heaven and earth.**

A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.

All **Most merciful God,
we confess to you,
before the whole company of heaven and one another,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed
and in what we have failed to do.
Forgive us our sins,
heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

O God, make speed to save us.

All **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.
Alleluia.**

The following or another suitable hymn may be sung

Before the ending of the day,

Creator of the world, we pray

That you, with steadfast love, would keep

Your watch around us while we sleep.

From evil dreams defend our sight,
From fears and terrors of the night;
Tread underfoot our deadly foe
That we no sinful thought may know.

O Father, that we ask be done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath
Our souls are raised to life from death.

The Word of God

Psalmody

At the end of the psalmody, the following is said or sung

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

One of the following short lessons or another passage is read

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us and we are called by your name;
leave us not, O Lord our God.
Jeremiah 14.9

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil is prowling
round like a roaring lion, seeking for someone to devour. Resist
him, strong in the faith.

1 Peter 5.8, 9

The servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God, whose name
will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night: they will not
need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for God will be their
light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22.4, 5

The following responsory may be said

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

All **Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

All **I commend my spirit.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit.

All **Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

All **Hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

Gospel Cantic

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said or sung

All **Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.**

1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.

2 My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

3 A light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

All **Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.**

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

The Collect

Silence may be kept. This or another collect is said:

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;
may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace,
and may your blessing be always upon us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (here) may be said.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
All **for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**
Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
All **for the night is at hand and the day is now past.**
As the night watch looks for the morning,
All **so do we look for you, O Christ.**
[Come with the dawning of the day
All and make yourself known in the breaking of the bread.]

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace. **Amen.**

Daily, Seasonal and Other Variations for Night Prayer ↑

This Collect may be used at Night Prayer on any day throughout the year

Lighten our darkness,
Lord, we pray,
and in your great mercy
defend us from all perils and
dangers of this night,
for the love of your only Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

¶ Ordinary Time

Sunday

Psalms 104.1,21-33; 134

Short Reading:

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us,
and we are called by your name;
leave us not, O Lord our God.
Jeremiah 14.9

Collect

Almighty God,
by triumphing over the powers of
darkness
Christ has prepared a place for us
in the new Jerusalem:
may we, who have this day given
thanks for his resurrection,
praise him in the eternal city
of which he is the light;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Monday

Psalm 4

Short Reading:

Thus said the Lord God, the Holy
One of Israel: In returning and rest

you shall be saved; in quietness
and in trust shall be your strength.
Isaiah 30.15

Collect

Be present, O merciful God,
and protect us through the silent
hours of this night,
so that we who are wearied
by the changes and chances of
this fleeting world,
may rest upon your eternal
changelessness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Tuesday

Psalm 143

Short Reading:

Jesus said, 'Come to me, all you
that are weary and are carrying
heavy burdens, and I will give you
rest. Take my yoke upon you, and
learn from me; for I am gentle and
humble in heart, and you will find
rest for your souls. For my yoke is
easy, and my burden is light.'
Matthew 11.28-end

Collect

Look down, O God, from your
heavenly throne,
illuminate the darkness of this
night with your celestial
brightness,
and from the children of light
banish the deeds of darkness;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Wednesday

Psalm 31.1-5, [19-end]

Short Reading:

Humble yourselves under the
mighty hand of God, so that he
may exalt you in due time. Cast all

your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. *1 Peter 5.6,7*

Collect

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,
and drive far from it the snares of
the enemy;
may your holy angels dwell with us
and guard us in peace,
and may your blessing be always
upon us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thursday

Psalm 16

Short Reading:

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil is prowling round like a roaring lion, seeking for someone to devour. Resist him, strong in the faith.

1 Peter 5.8, 9

Collect

Keep watch, dear Lord,
with those who wake, or watch, or
weep this night,
and give your angels charge over
those who sleep.
Tend the sick,
give rest to the weary,
sustain the dying,
calm the suffering,
and pity the distressed;
all for your love's sake, O Christ
our Redeemer.

Friday

Psalm 139.1-18

Short Reading:

God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are

awake or asleep we may live with him.

1 Thessalonians 5.9, 10

Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
who at this evening hour lay in the tomb
and so hallowed the grave
to be a bed of hope for all who put
their trust in you:
give us such sorrow for our sins,
which were the cause of your
passion,
that when our bodies lie in the
dust,
our souls may live with you for
ever.

Saturday

Psalm 91

Short Reading:

A sabbath rest still remains for the people of God; for those who enter God's rest also cease from their labours as God did from his. Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest.

Hebrews 4.9-11a

Collect

Stay with us, O God, this night,
so that by your strength
we may rise with the new day
to rejoice in the resurrection of
your Son,
Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Psalm 4

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness;
you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 How long will you nobles dishonour my glory;
how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?
- 3 But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness;
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
- 4 Stand in awe, and sin not; commune with your own heart upon your
bed, and be still.
- 5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness
and put your trust in the Lord.
- 6 There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?'
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.
- 8 In peace I will lie down and sleep,
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 91

- 1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,
- 2 Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold,
my God, in whom I put my trust.'
- 3 For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover you with his wings
and you shall be safe under his feathers;
his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.
- 5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night,
nor of the arrow that flies by day;
- 6 Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.

- 7 Though a thousand fall at your side
and ten thousand at your right hand,
yet it shall not come near you.
- 8 Your eyes have only to behold
to see the reward of the wicked.
- 9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge
and the Most High your stronghold,
- 10 There shall no evil happen to you,
neither shall any plague come near your tent.
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge over you,
to keep you in all your ways.
- 12 They shall bear you in their hands,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
- 13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder;
the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.
- 14 Because they have set their love upon me,
therefore will I deliver them;
I will lift them up, because they know my name.
- 15 They will call upon me and I will answer them;
I am with them in trouble,
I will deliver them and bring them to honour.
- 16 With long life will I satisfy them
and show them my salvation.

Psalm 134

- 1 Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.
- 2 Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary
and bless the Lord.
- 3 The Lord who made heaven and earth
give you blessing out of Zion.

Psalm 31.1-5, [19-end]

- 1 In you, Lord, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Turn your ear to me,
come quickly to my rescue;
be my rock of refuge,
a strong fortress to save me.
- 3 Since you are my rock and my fortress,
for the sake of your name lead and guide me.
- 4 Keep me free from the trap that is set for me,
for you are my refuge.
- 5 Into your hands I commit my spirit;
deliver me, Lord, my faithful God.
- 19 How abundant are the good things
that you have stored up for those who fear you,
that you bestow in the sight of all,
on those who take refuge in you.
- 20 In the shelter of your presence you hide them
from all human intrigues;
you keep them safe in your dwelling
from accusing tongues.
- 21 Praise be to the Lord,
for he showed me the wonders of his love
when I was in a city under siege.
- 22 In my alarm I said,
“I am cut off from your sight!”
Yet you heard my cry for mercy
when I called to you for help.
- 23 Love the Lord, all his faithful people!
The Lord preserves those who are true to him,
but the proud he pays back in full.
- 24 Be strong and take heart,
all you who hope in the Lord.

Psalm 139.1-18

- 1 You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.
- 2 You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- 3 You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
- 4 Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.
- 5 You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.
- 7 Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
- 8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
- 9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
10 even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.
- 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"
12 even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
- 13 For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
- 15 My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

- 16 Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.
- 17 How precious to me are your thoughts,[a] God!
How vast is the sum of them!
- 18 Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand—
when I awake, I am still with you.

Psalm 16

- 1 Keep me safe, my God,
for in you I take refuge.
- 2 I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord;
apart from you I have no good thing.”
- 3 I say of the holy people who are in the land,
“They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight.”
- 4 Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more.
I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods
or take up their names on my lips.
- 5 Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup;
you make my lot secure.
- 6 The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
surely I have a delightful inheritance.
- 7 I will praise the Lord, who counsels me;
even at night my heart instructs me.
- 8 I keep my eyes always on the Lord.
With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.
- 9 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest secure,
- 10 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
nor will you let your faithful[b] one see decay.
- 11 You make known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Psalm 143

- 1 Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy;
in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.
- 2 Do not bring your servant into judgment,
for no one living is righteous before you.
- 3 The enemy pursues me,
he crushes me to the ground;
he makes me dwell in the darkness
like those long dead.
- 4 So my spirit grows faint within me;
my heart within me is dismayed.
- 5 I remember the days of long ago;
I meditate on all your works
and consider what your hands have done.
- 6 I spread out my hands to you;
I thirst for you like a parched land.[a]
- 7 Answer me quickly, Lord;
my spirit fails.
Do not hide your face from me
or I will be like those who go down to the pit.
- 8 Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,
for I have put my trust in you.
Show me the way I should go,
for to you I entrust my life.
- 9 Rescue me from my enemies, Lord,
for I hide myself in you.
- 10 Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God;
may your good Spirit
lead me on level ground.
- 11 For your name's sake, Lord, preserve my life;
in your righteousness, bring me out of trouble.
- 12 In your unfailing love, silence my enemies;
destroy all my foes,
for I am your servant.

¶ The Seasons

Advent

Psalm 143

Short Reading:

Keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.
Mark 13.35-end

Nunc dimittis

Refrain:

All Come, O Lord, and visit us in peace;
that we may rejoice before you with a perfect heart.

Collect

Stir up your power, O God,
and come among us.
Heal our wounds,
calm our fears
and give us peace;
through Jesus our Redeemer.

Blessing

Restore us again, O God of hosts;
show us the light of your countenance
and we shall be saved.
Bless and keep us, this night and always.

Christmas

Psalm 31.1-5, [19-end]

Short Reading:

In him was life and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.
John 1.4,5

Nunc dimittis

Refrain:

Alleluia. The Word was made flesh, alleluia, and dwelt among us. Alleluia, alleluia.

Collect

We give you thanks, O God,
for the gift to the world of our Redeemer;
as we sing your glory at the close of this day,
so may we know his presence in our hearts,
who is our Saviour and our Lord,
now and for ever.

Blessing

May the love of the Word made flesh enfold us,
his joy fill our lives,
his peace be in our hearts;
and the blessing of God be with us this night and always.

Epiphany

Psalm 16

Short Reading:

The grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation to all.
Titus 2.11

Nunc dimittis

Refrain:

All Alleluia. Christ the light of the world, alleluia,
has manifested his glory. Alleluia, alleluia.

Collect

King of kings and Lord of lords,
making the true light to shine:
lighten our darkness now and
evermore
that with our lips and in our lives
we may praise you;
for you are our God, now and for
ever.

Blessing

May the living waters of Christ
cleanse us,
may the Spirit descend upon us,
and the blessing of God be with us
this night and always.

Lent

Psalms 139.1-18

Short Reading:

Is not this the fast that I choose: to
loose the bonds of injustice, to
undo the thongs of the yoke, to let
the oppressed go free, and to
break every yoke? Is it not to share
your bread with the hungry, and
bring the homeless poor into your
house; when you see the naked, to
cover them, and not to hide
yourself from your own kin?
Isaiah 58. 6,7

Nunc dimittis

Refrain:

All Christ died for us,
so that, whether we wake or sleep,
we might live with him.

Collect

Almighty God,
may we, by the prayer and
discipline of Lent,

enter into the mystery of Christ's
sufferings;
that by following in the Way,
we may come to share in the glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing

May God bless us,
that in us may be found love and
humility,
obedience and thanksgiving,
discipline, gentleness and peace.

Passiontide

Psalms 139.1-18

Short Reading:

I will pour out a spirit of
compassion and supplication on
the house of David and the
inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that,
when they look on the one whom
they have pierced, they shall
mourn for him, as one mourns for
an only child, and weep bitterly
over him, as one weeps over a
firstborn.
Zechariah 12.10

Nunc dimittis

Refrain:

All Christ himself bore our sins in
his body on the tree,
that we might die to sin and live to
righteousness.

Collect

Almighty God,
as we stand at the foot of the
cross of your Son,
help us to see and know your love
for us,
so that in humility, love and joy
we may place at his feet

all that we have and all that we are;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Blessing

May God bless us,
that in us may be found love and humility,
obedience and thanksgiving,
discipline, gentleness and peace.

Easter

Psalm 104.1,21-33

Short Reading:

The servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God, whose name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night: they will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22.4,5

Nunc dimittis

Refrain:

All Alleluia. The Lord is risen,
alleluia,
as he promised to you. Alleluia,
alleluia.

Collect

Almighty God,
by triumphing over the powers of darkness
Christ has prepared a place for us
in the new Jerusalem:
may we, who have this day given
thanks for his resurrection,
praise him in the eternal city
of which he is the light;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing

May the risen Lord Jesus bless us.
May he watch over us and renew
us
as he renews the whole of
creation.
May our hearts and lives echo his
love.

From the day after Ascension Day until the Day of Pentecost

Psalm 86

Short Reading:

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters
shall prophesy. The old shall
dream dreams and the young shall
see visions.

Joel 2.28

Nunc dimittis

Refrain:

All Alleluia. The Holy Spirit, the
Advocate, alleluia,
shall teach you all things. Alleluia,
alleluia.

Collect

Come, O Spirit of God,
and make within us your dwelling
place and home.
May our darkness be dispelled by
your light,
and our troubles calmed by your
peace;
may all evil be redeemed by your
love,
all pain transformed through the
suffering of Christ,
and all dying glorified in his risen
life.

Blessing

May the Holy Spirit of God bless
and sanctify us
so that we may be consecrated in
the truth.

From All Saints' Day until the Friday before the First Sunday of Advent *Psalms as in Ordinary Time*

Short Reading:

The one who endures to the end
will be saved. And this good news
of the kingdom will be proclaimed
throughout the world, as a
testimony to all the nations.
Matthew 24.13, 14a

Nunc dimittis

Refrain:

All O King most blessed,
on the day of judgement
number us among your chosen.

Collect

God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ,

bring us to the dwelling which your
Son is preparing
for all who love you;
give us the will each day to live in
life eternal;
let our citizenship be in heaven
with the blessed,
with the whole company of the
redeemed
and with countless angels,
praising, worshipping and adoring
your Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
who sits upon the throne for ever
and ever.

Blessing

May the light of Christ, the King of
all,
shine ever brighter in our hearts,
that with all the saints in light
we may shine forth as lights in the
world.

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